



The NUNES Report

Congressman Nunes Urges Governor to Include Water Storage in Bond Initiative

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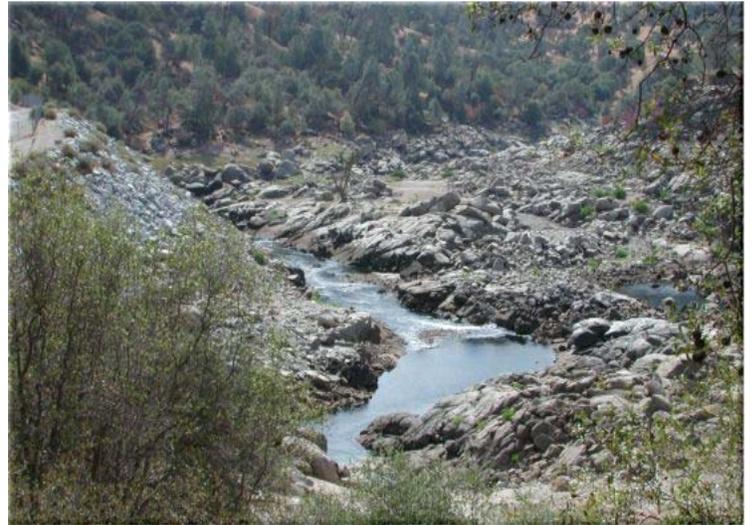
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Recently, Rep. Nunes took time to express his thoughts to Governor Schwarzenegger about the potential infrastructure bond initiative. While the proposal in its current form attempts to address the many infrastructure needs in California, Rep. Nunes is particularly concerned about the lack of proposed funding for the development of new water storage facilities in California, specifically water storage on the Upper San Joaquin River above Millerton Lake.

Since arriving in Washington, Congressman Nunes has continuously fought for federal involvement in this critical project. This included a federal authorization for a feasibility study and millions of dollars of support. While work at the federal level will continue until this project is completed, many believe there needs to be a strong state component to the construction of the project.

"Although the state and federal governments have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on environmental restoration, not a single major surface storage facility has been built in the San Joaquin Valley in over half a century," said Rep. Nunes.



Upper San Joaquin River near site of proposed dam at Temperance Flat

"Without specific language in support of water storage projects in the bond initiative, we will most certainly find ourselves ten years down the road again with no new storage. This is simply unacceptable and is a threat to the livelihood of all Californians," he added.

The State of California continues to face a water crisis in which its water supplies have become inadequate to meet expanding needs. Demands by domestic users, industry, municipal users, and environmental needs continue to grow with no relief in sight. New storage capability would go a long way to meet the needs

of the farmers and urban centers of the San Joaquin Valley, the metropolitan areas of Southern California and the Bay Area, and would provide essential water flows necessary for the restoration of downstream habitats on watersheds throughout the state. While there are numerous water storage studies currently underway within the CALFED process, the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Study has the strong support of the agriculture community, water districts, and local governments that surround the watershed.

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